

Copy
Bill

April 19, 1963

Honorable Ben F. Jensen
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Ben,

I wanted you to know that I have kept in mind your letter to me of March 7 referring to the article in the Washington Star reporting the tightening of rules on the use of research grant funds awarded by the National Institutes of Health. I had read the story also, since as you well know, I am pretty alert to any references to the programs to which I have directed so much of my attention here in the Congress.

While the news story is accurate as far as it goes, it by no means tells the whole story. The appropriation subcommittee of which I am chairman, has just completed its hearings on the PHS and NIH appropriation requests for FY 1964. We inquired thoroughly into the action being taken by the PHS to strengthen its grant administration and probed specifically for any evidences of "waste" or other poor use of funds. I think you will agree after reviewing these hearings that things are not as bad as they are frequently painted, that there is continued improvement in the conduct of these programs and that allegations of "massive waste" are ridiculous.

As the story in the Star noted, an important advance in the administration of these programs has been the issuance by the PHS of a Manual to Facilitate the Administration of Research and Training Grants. This manual, I am informed, has been distributed to all grantee institutions and its contents discussed thoroughly with the responsible officials of these institutions.

The manual specifies clearly the responsibility of all parties involved in the awarding and use of grant funds: the PHS, the institution and the scientist. It imposes major restrictions on the use of grant funds in a manner to assure their use for the purposes for which they are given. It limits the use of funds for travel, particularly international travel, and provides strict procedures to be followed by an investigator in modifying his budget plans after he secures his grant.

I think this arrangement will give us assurance that funds are being carefully administered in these programs. As for the statements you hear about "enormous waste" in these programs, I am satisfied that this is untrue. The best evidence of this is the fact that the National Institutes of Health has turned back each year savings from their appropriations in very substantial amounts which were left unexpended because there was neither time nor opportunity to utilize them wisely.

I appreciate your interest in these matters, and remember your many contributions when you were on the subcommittee. I am glad you are with me in taking a hard and constructive look at these programs because I think much harm can be done by not establishing the facts accurately.

With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

John E. Fogarty
Member of Congress